



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

**Southwest District Office**

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George V. Voinovich  
Governor

September 3, 1998

RE: DOE FEMP  
MSL #531-0297  
FERNALD COST RECOVERY  
GRANT AWARD NUMBER  
DE-FG05-94OR22167

Mr. Mike Kepler, PCD  
U.S. DOE - Ohio Field Office  
P.O. Box 3020  
Miamisburg, OH 45334-3020

Dear Mr. Kepler:

Attached please find Ohio EPA's Quarterly Report for the period April 1, 1998 through June 30, 1998 detailing activities related to the Cost Recovery Grant.

If you should have any questions regarding this report, please contact me at (937) 285-6466.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Schneider  
Fernald Project Manager  
Office of Federal Facilities Oversight

cc w/o enc: Graham Mitchell, Chief, OFFO  
Pat Campbell, Fiscal Officer, DERR  
John Brown, Fernald Site Auditor  
Jack Craig, DOE Fernald  
Jim Beaton, Grants Administrator, Fiscal  
cc w/ enc: Kathi Nickel, DOE Fernald

**Ohio EPA Office of Federal Facilities Oversight  
Cost Recovery Grant Quarterly Report  
for the  
Third Quarter of FFY98**

**APRIL 1998**

**HIGHLIGHTS/SIGNIFICANT EVENTS**

- Work continued in the Southern Waste Units on completion of stormwater controls, truck wash pad, and support facilities. In addition to construction activities, sampling to delineate above WAC areas continued. Ohio EPA split samples on April 13, 14, and 20 and inspected the area on April 7 and 16.
- Placement of the East Stockpile material into the OSDF was completed the first week in April. A total of 22,365 yds<sup>3</sup> of contaminated material were disposed in April. Work continues on the truck wash facility and berm clay compaction.
- The FCAB Off-site Subcommittee met on April 13 to discuss the White Metal Box Corrective Action Plan. The On-site Subcommittee met on April 15 to discuss natural resource and supplemental project status. The Efficiency Subcommittee met on April 15 to discuss nuclear materials and the FY2000 budget scenarios.
- Fernald's monthly Progress Meeting was held on April 14. Topics discussed included project updates and the White Metal Box Corrective Action Plan.
- Regarding the Waste Pit Remedial Action Project, construction was completed on the North Rail yard during the second week of April. Additionally, the contract for the first set of rail cars was awarded to Boston Transit.
- FDF initiated WAC sampling in soil stockpile SP-5, located north west of the production area, during the week of April 20th. Ohio EPA split samples on April 23.
- Ohio EPA staff continue to review the Remedial Design Package for OU1, the waste pits.
- Construction and startup of the new Sewage Treatment Plant was completed mid-April.
- On April 27 & 28, Ohio EPA, DOE and FDF participated in a joint training session on Bioengineering, primarily focusing on erosion control measures for Paddys Run. The session was taught by Munro Services. A demonstration project is being planned to start in the next few weeks.
- The Harrison Press included an article on OFFO's real time radon data available on the Internet.

**DOCUMENT APPROVALS**

Provided Ohio EPA approval on the following document: 1) Final Reinjection Demonstration Test Plan & RtC; 2) Resumption of OSDF Activities; 3) Revised Wetland Mitigation Strategy; 4) A8P1 Certification Design Letter.

**DOCUMENT REVIEWS**

Provided review and/or comments to DOE on the following documents: 1) Aquifer Restoration Verification Sampling Summary; 2) QAPP RtC; 3) OSDF Supplemental Projects Ecological Research Grant WP; 4) Soil Pile #5 PSP; 5) Aesthetic Barrier WP; 6)

OU4 AWR Statement of Work; 7) Real Time Users Manual; 8) CDC Cancer Study; 9) WAC Plan Revisions.

## **MEETINGS**

One or more OFFO staff participated in the following meetings:

Weekly Project Managers conference calls; OFFO staff meeting; OSDF/SWU/Paddys Run weekly inspections; CRO bi-monthly mtg; FCAB on-site, off-site, and efficiency committee meetings; monthly Progress Briefing (WMB Corrective Action); Fernald Living History Project meetings; OU4 public meeting; Soils mtgs; Fernald NRT meeting; OU1 WPRAP Remedial Design Presentation; A1P2 meetings; OU4 conference call; FFY2000 budget meeting w/ OFO; Paddy Run erosion inspections; Real-time workgroup.

## **GIS/GPS ACTIVITIES**

- Two days of GPS training were attended by several members of the Fernald group. As part of the training, several Mound PRS locations and several radon monitoring locations at Fernald were located with the GPS.
- Initiated process to send two Fernald staff members to MicroStation training next month.
- Initiated purchase of OFFO/SWDO LAN switching hub.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

- Candidates for the vacant ESPEC II position were interviewed and one selected. A May start date is expected.
- The process is underway to receive proposals from potential web consultants. The consultant would assist with an overhaul of OFFO's current web site, in addition to various other web projects.
- Jo Davidson, OFFO's records manager will be leaving in May to accept a promotion with District Operations.

## **TRAINING**

- Tom Schneider, Joe Bartoszek and Donna Bohannon attended Soil Bioengineering training at Fernald taught by Munro Services.
- Tom Schneider attended Interpersonal Skills training.

## **QUALITY INDICATORS**

- Efforts are underway to create a new OFFO web site. The layout of the site will change as will the current file management.
- OFFO participated in the Fernald Living History Project volunteer advisory group. The group met on April 3 and 24 to discuss on-going funding requests and the creation of a promotional video for the project. The project is aimed at developing environmental history information regarding Fernald and the surrounding area.
- Provide technical assistance regarding radionuclide contamination to Ashtabula RAP.

## MAY 1998

### **HIGHLIGHTS/SIGNIFICANT EVENTS**

- The Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit has acted to lift the preliminary injunction against DOE concerning commercial waste disposal. This action should help to ensure off-site disposal of the Waste Pit material beginning in March 1999.
- Site preparation activities in the Southern Waste Units is near completion. Ohio EPA inspected the area on May 4, 19, 27 and 29. Final seeding was initiated on May 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Petro Environmental was awarded the contract for Southern Waste Units excavation and OSDF construction. Ohio EPA inspected OSDF operations on May 4, 14 and 19. Visible dust emissions were noticed at the May 14<sup>th</sup> inspection, and DOE/FDF officials were notified.
- The Ohio Federal Facilities Forum ran from May 5-6 in Dayton. Representatives of Ohio EPA spoke about Fernald issues including natural resource restoration.
- Certification sampling was completed in Area 8 Phase I. Once certified, the area will be used for conducting research on restoration techniques and a public access area.
- The first Field Office Business Forum was hosted by the Weapons Complex Monitor May 11-13. Representatives from DOE, FDF, USEPA and Ohio EPA discussed topics concerning the Fernald cleanup.
- FDF has released the OU4 Silo 3 Request for Proposals seeking vendors to remove and treat materials from Silo 3. Bids are due by July 2, 1998. Additionally, on May 26, FDF released the OU4 Silos 1 & 2 Advanced Waste Retrieval Request for Proposals seeking vendors to remove the contents of the K-65 silos into interim storage vessels.
- A public bus tour of Fernald cleanup activities took place on May 12 as part of the monthly Progress Briefing. The tour highlighted OSDF construction, the aquifer restoration project and dismantlement of the Boiler Plant.
- The FCAB met on May 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Appellate Court action in the WCS case, White Metal Box update, budget issues, and cultural resource issues. The off-site subcommittee met on May 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss the WCS case, budget, OU1 contingency plans and intermodel waste transportation. The efficiency subcommittee met on May 13<sup>th</sup> and discussed budget and trying to develop an understanding of what Congress intended for the Closure Fund.

### **DOCUMENT APPROVALS**

Provided Ohio EPA approval on the following document: 1) Maintenance/Tank Farm Implementation Plan; 2) South Field Extraction & Optimization Startup Plan & RtC; 3) Request to Discontinue GW Monitoring at MW 1675 & 1676 Adjacent to Coal Pile Runoff Basing; 4) Mgt of Wastewater Streams w/ F-Listed Constituents; 5) Final Habitat Area WP; 6) Final Draft WAC Plan.

### **DOCUMENT REVIEWS**

Provided review and/or comments to DOE on the following documents: 1) STP

Implementation Plan; 2) OU1 RD; 3) IEMP Q4 Report, Q3 RtC, DMEPP RtC; 4) A2P1 IRDP; 5) A1P1 Certification Report draft RtC; 6) Silo 3 RFP RtC; 7) A1P2 Sector 1,2a and Conveyance Certification Report; 8) OU4 Silos 1&2 AWR SOW RtC.

## **MEETINGS**

One or more OFFO staff participated in the following meetings:  
Weekly Project Managers conference calls; OFFO staff meeting; OSDF/SWU/Paddys Run weekly inspections;; FCAB on-site, off-site, and efficiency committee meetings; monthly Progress Briefing/Public Tour; FRESH bi-monthly meeting; Fernald Health Effects Committee meeting; UC Fernald Living History Project meetings; Paddys Run restoration meeting; NPDES permit renewal meeting; Real-Time Technical Work Group; OU1 stormwater issues; Ohio Federal Facilities Forum; Ohio Field Office Business Forum; WAO meetings; MARSIM demo.

## **GIS/GPS**

- Verified the accuracy of our GPS by surveying in two benchmarks on-site.
- Jim Coon attended Intergraph Graphical Users Group conference in Huntsville, AL.
- Provided GPS assistance to DERR for Valleycrest Landfill.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

- Michelle Orr filled the vacant Fernald position with a start date of May 26.

## **TRAINING**

- Kelly Kaletsky attended MircoStation training in Huntsville, AL at Intergraph headquarters.
- Geotrans conducted OSDF technical training for several of the Fernald team members.

## **QUALITY INDICATORS**

- OFFO staff participated in the second annual Children's Ground Water Festival at UD.
- Efforts are underway to create a new OFFO web site. The layout of the site will change as will the current file management.
- OFFO participated in the Fernald Living History Project volunteer advisory group. The group met on May 1 and 29 to discuss on-going funding requests and the creation of a promotional video for the project. The project is aimed at developing environmental history information regarding Fernald and the surrounding area.
- Provide technical assistance regarding radionuclide contamination to Ashtabula RAP.

## **JUNE 1998**

## **HIGHLIGHTS/SIGNIFICANT EVENTS**

- The Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit has lifted the injunction against DOE

- concerning commercial waste disposal. The contract for off-site disposal of the Waste Pit material was awarded to Envirocare of Utah that same day.
- OFFO published and distributed its 1997 Annual Report to the Public on the Fernald Environmental Management Project. One hundred copies were printed, with approximately 60 of these being sent to state and local representatives, other states, the FCAB, CRO and other stakeholders.
  - FDF awarded the contracts for the OU4 Silos 1 & 2 Proof-of-Principle testing. Contracts were awarded to EnVitco for Joule-heated vitrification; Vortec Corporation for other vitrification; IT Corporation for cement based chemical stabilization; Chem-Nuclear for other chemical stabilization.
  - Site preparation activities were completed in the Southern Waste Units.
  - Stream stabilization using a combination of bioengineering and traditional controls was initiated in Paddys Run near the Southern Waste Units. At this location the stream was eroding toward the waste units and associated support facilities. Rains during the week of June 8th and 15th significantly impacted incomplete portions of the project. Ohio EPA inspected activities in the area on June 1, 3, 4, 8, 10, 12, 17, 18, 22.
  - The FCAB off-site subcommittee met on June 10th and discussed the WCS case and the OU4 contracts. The on-site subcommittee met on June 10<sup>th</sup> and discussed land use, Waste Acceptance Organization and certification activities.
  - The Fernald Community Reuse Organization met on June 2nd. Discussions included land use and the lack of bidders on the RFP to evaluate 23 acres for re-use opportunities.
  - FDF and the University of Dayton completed installation of the revegetation test plots in Area 1 Phase 1. The plots will evaluate the ability of various soil amendments and covers to aid in revegetation of excavated areas with native warm season grasses. Ohio EPA observed activities on June 1, 12, 17, & 22.
  - Ohio EPA approved the A1P1 and A1P2 Sector 1, 2a & CD Certification Reports on June 19th. These reports certify that approximately 202 acres have attained the OU5 ROD final remediation levels at the time of sampling. Portions of A1P1 will be used for OSDF construction while another area will be used for wetland mitigation. The majority of A1P2 areas will be used for OSDF construction and clay borrow activities.
  - Work began on OU4 Silo 3 small scale waste removal operations. The task is aimed at removing a sufficient volume of waste to complete process testing by the vendor selected for remediation of Silo 3.
  - Sewage Treatment Plant D&D was initiated. A containment structure will be erected around the incinerator prior to D&D. Work is expected to be completed by October 1998.
  - Ohio EPA's Director Schregardus toured Fernald on June 24th and met with representatives from FRESH.

#### DOCUMENT APPROVALS

Provided Ohio EPA approval on the following document: 1) OU4 Silo 3 RDWP; 2) Plant 8 Muffle Furnace IP & RtC; 3) Revised A1P1 Certification Report; 4) Amendment to

Plant 9 IMP; 5) Final Restoration Area Sampling Report & RtC; 6) Batch 7 Treatment Letter; 7) A2P1 IRDP RtC and Addendum (conditional approval); 8) Revised Research Grant WP & RtC; 9) PSP for Excavation Monitoring in A2P1 & SP5; 10) SEP RtC (conditional approval); 11) A1P2 Certification Report & RtC; 12) First Year Borrow Plan; 13) Aesthetic Barrier WP.

## **DOCUMENT REVIEWS**

Provided review and/or comments to DOE on the following documents: 1) Real Time Users Manual, THE REAL THING; 2) Revised SEP; 3) OU1 Transportation and Disposal Plan; 4) A1P2 Site Prep Package; 5) STP Implementation Plan RtC; 6) A1P1 Sed Trap 2&3 CDL.

## **MEETINGS**

One or more OFFO staff participated in the following meetings: Weekly Project Managers conference calls; OFFO staff meeting; OSDF/SWU/Paddys Run weekly inspections; CRO meeting; FCAB on-site and off-site committee meetings; monthly Progress Briefing; UC Fernald Living History Project meeting; WAO demonstration; WAO training; Soils meeting; National Dialog conference call; National Dialog meetings; Director's meeting and tour; STCG conference call and meeting; OU1 RD mtg; OU1 mtg with Hamilton County DAPC.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

- Performed GIS software upgrades.
- Two of the three new computers purchased arrived and were installed.

## **TRAINING**

- Fernald team members received various computer-based and person-to-person training opportunities aimed at completing the requirements for both the Agency's 8-hour refresher as well as site access. Among those either completed or underway are Rad Worker II (computer and practical), GET, Site Worker, and Aesbestos Awareness.

## **QUALITY INDICATORS**

- Efforts are underway to create a new OFFO web site. The layout of the site will change as will the current file management.
- OFFO participated in the Fernald Living History Project volunteer advisory group. The group met on June 26 to discuss on-going funding requests, the creation of a promotional video, and a booth at the Silver Queen Festival to promote the project. The project is aimed at developing environmental history information regarding Fernald and the surrounding area.